

CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of providing reinforcement, acoustical damping, or sealing to a member of an article of manufacture with a synthetic material, the method comprising:

providing a polymeric base material, the base material being tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C;

providing a polymeric powder, the powder including correspondence components, the powder being substantially non-tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C, the powder exhibiting adhesivity at a temperature greater than 80 °C wherein the correspondence components include an epoxy resin;

dispensing the powder upon the base material to form the synthetic material with at least one substantially non-tacky surface and at least one tacky surface; and

applying the synthetic material to the member of the article of manufacture.

Claim 21-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the base material is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic-based material, an epoxy-based material and an elastomer based material.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 further comprising, applying release paper to the tacky surface of the synthetic material.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the article of manufacture is an automotive vehicle.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method as in claim 27 wherein the member is selected from the group consisting of a frame member and a body member of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the correspondence components in the powder have a substantially identical monomer or oligomer configuration to polymeric components in the base material with the exception that the correspondence components in the powder have a greater molecular weight or longer polymeric chain structure than the polymeric components in the base material.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method as in claim 20 wherein the base material includes a blowing agent and is an expandable material.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the base material and the powder are thermosettable materials and the base material includes a curing agent.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method as in claim 20 wherein the one or more correspondence components represent at least 30 % by weight of the powder.

Claims 35-43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (new): A method of providing reinforcement, acoustical damping, or sealing to a member of an article of manufacture with a synthetic material, the method comprising:

providing a polymeric base material, the base material being tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C wherein the base material is an expandable material;

providing a polymeric powder, the powder including correspondence components, the powder being substantially non-tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C, the powder exhibiting adhesivity at a temperature greater than 80 °C;

dispensing the powder upon the base material to form the synthetic material with at least one substantially non-tacky surface and at least one tacky surface; and

applying the synthetic material to the member of the article of manufacture.

Claim 45 (new): A method as in claim 44 wherein the step of applying the synthetic material includes contacting the non-tacky surface of the synthetic material such that the tacky surface of the synthetic material is adhered to the member.

Claim 46 (new): A method as in claim 45 wherein the contacting of the non-tacky surface is carried out by an individual, a machine or a combination thereof.

Claim 47 (new): A method as in claim 44 wherein the base material is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic-based material, an epoxy-based material and an elastomer based material.

Claim 48 (new): A method as in claim 44 wherein the article of manufacture is an automotive vehicle.

Claim 49 (new): A method as in claim 48 wherein the member is selected from the group consisting of a frame member and a body member of the automotive vehicle.

Claim 50 (new): A method as in claim 44 wherein the one or more correspondence components are substantially identical to one or more components in the base material.

Claim 51 (new): A method as in claim 44 wherein the correspondence components in the powder have a substantially identical monomer or oligomer configuration to polymeric components in the base material with the exception that the correspondence components in the powder have a greater molecular weight or longer polymeric chain structure than the polymeric components in the base material.

Claim 52 (new): A method as in claim 44 wherein the base material includes a blowing agent and a curing agent.

Claim 53 (new): A method as in claim 44 wherein the one or more correspondence components represent at least 30 % by weight of the powder.

Claim 54 (new): A method as in claim 44 wherein at least one of the one or more correspondence components is selected from the group of an acetate, an acrylate or an elastomer.

Claim 55 (new): A method of providing reinforcement, acoustical damping, or sealing to a member of an article of manufacture with a synthetic material, the method comprising:

providing a polymeric base material, the base material being tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C;

providing a polymeric powder, the powder including correspondence components, the powder being substantially non-tacky at a temperature of about 23 °C, the powder exhibiting adhesivity at a temperature greater than 80 °C;

dispensing the powder upon the base material to form the synthetic material with at least one substantially non-tacky surface and at least one tacky surface wherein the polymeric base material, the polymeric powder or both are thermosettable; and applying the synthetic material to the member of the article of manufacture.

Claim 56 (new): A method as in claim 55 further comprising:
thermosetting the polymeric base material, the polymeric powder or both.

Claim 57 (new): A method as in claim 56 wherein the polymeric base material and the polymeric powder are thermosettable and wherein the step of activating includes thermosetting the base material and the polymeric powder.

Claim 58 (new): A method as in claim 56 wherein the article of manufacture is an automotive vehicle.

Claim 59 (new): A method as in claim 56 wherein the one or more correspondence components are substantially identical to one or more components in the base material.

Claims 60 (new): A method as in claim 56 wherein the base material includes a blowing agent and is an expandable material.

Claim 61 (new): A method as in claim 56 wherein the one or more correspondence components represent at least 30 % by weight of the powder.

Claim 62 (new): A method as in claim 56 wherein at least one of the one or more correspondence components is selected from the group of an acetate, an acrylate or an elastomer.